the evidence that was given before this Committee by men of moderate views whose loyalty to the Czar was beyond doubt or dispute.

" Sitting, 1st February, 1917. M, V. Rodzianko, President of the Imperial Duma, pointed out that the question of the possibility of the crisis that had now arisen was raised by the Special Conference on Defence already in 1915, when a special commission was dispatched for the inspection of the Donetz region. This commission formulated a whole series of measures of a preventative character, which apparently remained unrealisable. Similarly, the Conference pointed out the necessity for a rational use of the available transport capacity of the railway network and for the requisite increase of rolling stock. Lastly, the Conference gave directions for the timely regularisation of the victualling question. The wishes expressed by the Conference, however, remained unfulfilled. As a result, a situation has been created which had been characterised by the President of the Conference as evoking the most serious apprehensions. *To these apprehensions there is further added the alarm for the fate of our Lack of food army which is beginning to experience a in the Army considerable shortage of articles of material supplies and particularly of food-stuffs', owing to the disorganisation of railway transport. According to information in the possession of M. V. Rodzianko the*

Armies on the South-Western and Southern Fronts are only fed on lentils. If these difficulties are not removed then we cannot reckon upon a successful issue for us of the campaign. Such a threatening state of affairs impels the members of the Conference